



# THE FARMER'S TALK TO FARMERS

## ABOUT FARM AND GARDEN RULES

(Written Specially For The Bulletin.)

Here are a few rules, interesting or suggestive items I've noted in my recent reading. They are unrelated, and make up a patchwork sort of quilt, but all have some farm or garden interest.

Two professors in the University of Wisconsin have recently discovered that about 300 pounds of acetic acid and about 200 pounds of lactic acid can be obtained from a ton of corn-cobs. I don't understand that both can be got from the same ton of cobs, but either one as described. There is commercial demand for both acids, the lactic acid especially being freely used in the "soft drinks," so widely sold. There are a lot of corn-cobs in the United States, taking three years with another. It is said that 20,000,000 tons are wanted in this country, every year.

Some years ago there was a considerable use made of the corn stalk with in making lime. Properly prepared, it was found to be very helpful in stopping corn blight. The stalks were cut into small pieces, and a solution of lime was added very little weight. But the moment a leaf developed, it was it began to swell and automatically stopped at least the least the window of water.

On this farm corn-cobs have been used for a hundred years or more in making lime. They were cut into small pieces, and a solution of lime was added very little weight. But the moment a leaf developed, it was it began to swell and automatically stopped at least the least the window of water.

Really, the number of uses to which the corn plant can be devoted is almost as great as that of the date-plant, from which certain products are said to be obtained for the production of fuel and drinks.

It has been known for a long time that the Indians used to smoke pipes. Almost every museum has examples of their work in making them. But was smoking a custom of other races in other parts of the ancient world?

A curious discovery has lately been made in France, during excavations on the site of the old Roman camp of Caesar's time. Several unquestionable pipes were found, the bowls and short stems perfectly perfect and having in at least one case, recognizable remains of the road stem through which the smoke was drawn.

Tobacco has always been supposed to be a native American production. It has been taken for granted that it was never known in Europe till Sir Walter Raleigh, having learned about it during his American adventures, introduced it into England. We've all read the story of how Sir Walter's servant, entering his room and seeing him smoking in a dense cloud of the fragrant smoke, dashed out for a bucket of water, thinking his master's clothes on fire.

But, if the Romans of Caesar's army had pipes, or pipes to be no longer capable of doubt, then the question arises: What did they smoke in their pipes? Did Julius Caesar smoke himself, evenings, after the day's fighting, or smoking dried mullein or cabbage leaves?

The state of New York eight or ten years ago spent \$147,000,000 widening and deepening its canals, especially the Erie canal. When the federal government went took over the country's transportation, during the late war, not only was no effective use made of these canals, but discriminatory regulations were piled on on top of another, which actually crippled a diversion of most of their traffic to the rails.

It is asserted that last season the tonnage of freight borne on the canals was only one-tenth that carried on the smaller and shallower canals used before the spending of that \$147,000,000.

New railroads had freight faster than canals can float it. But they also charge more—a great deal more—on bulky and non-perishable products than the canals furnish a cheap even though slow means of transportation. There has been and is no reason why any commodities as coal and lumber and grain and flour and feeds should not be canal-carried, whenever terminal facilities make it possible. At the Erie canal, the Great Lakes at its western end, and the Hudson river at its eastern, this makes possible an all-water carriage of freight from any part on the five lakes right to the suburbs at New York or New London, for example.

Today a large percentage of the undue cost of living is due to exorbitant charges for transporting the materials. If the

freights on flour and feeds could be reduced to their pre-war rate, there is no doubt that four and feeds could be sold for much less than now. It was the false action of the last administration in discriminating against the canals and forcing the traffic over to the railroads which has been directly responsible for this item of unnecessary expense, among others.

According to a report from Ohio, farm labor in that state is going to be plentiful and cheaper, this season. "Scores of letters" are said to have been received by the state agricultural department from former farm employees, now out of work in industrial centers. "We aren't afraid of work and we aren't looking for wartime wages," is an extract from one letter sent by two young men of 22 and 23 years, respectively.

Let us hope that other farmers, in other states than Ohio will be able, this year to hire labor for less wages than the entire value of the farm output.

Phosphoric acid is one of the most valuable, not to say indispensable, fertilizers used. In the average farmer's mind it rather overbalances all the other elements of a complete fertilizer. Thousands of farmers still call all commercial fertilizers "phosphates," though phosphoric acid may often amount to only two or three per cent. of the total weight.

The phosphates which are chiefly used come from vast deposits of a peculiar rock found in Florida and some other southern states. This rock is crushed and treated with sulphuric acid. The rock itself is cheap, but the acid costs money and, worse yet, is wasteful. A rock which contains as much as 22 per cent. of phosphoric acid, raw, yields only 16 per cent. or less when treated with acid.

The bureau of soils at Washington has been experimenting in the hope of discovering some cheaper and less wasteful way of making the phosphate available. The bureau has found, at last, that smelting with crude oil as fuel results in doubling the percentage of phosphoric acid saved and in reducing the cost from 22 per cent. of the value of the product to 10 per cent.

This has yet to be tried out, commercially. But if it can be made to work, practically a farmer will be able to get a much more useful value in half a ton of phosphate as he now gets in a ton, and will have to pay freight on but half as much inert "filling."

The department of agriculture reports that, in last year's price-tumble, the farmers of the country lost more than all their previous gains from war-time prices. Last January, for instance, the average price on the farm of meat cattle was \$4.51 less than the price of the year before we went to war.

At to corn the drop of 1920 "not only wiped out all the gain of the preceding three years, but perceptibly exceeded it." Put that in your pipe, Mr. and Mrs. City Consumer, and smoke it!

In 1918, 9,000,000 animals, which yielded 5,000,000,000 pounds of beef. We exported 123,000,000 pounds in 1918; 154,000,000 pounds last year. Ten years ago the average annual consumption of beef was 17 pounds per head of our population. Last year it was 26 pounds.

If this thing keeps on long enough, we shall all be living on turnips and artichokes, and wondering over the deterioration of the race!

The U. S. department of agriculture earnestly warns grass-seed buyers against so-called "cheaper-and-better" mixtures, except after great care has been used in learning the exact proportions of the mixtures. While the claim is made that the different seeds occur in the proper proportions for seeding, "frequently there is not more than five or six per cent. of clover present—not enough to be any value in the crop. In such cases buyers really get only timothy, but pay double timothy price."

A widely circulated authority on gardening says that the same kind of vegetables should never be planted twice in succession in the same place. This is correct as a general rule. It has its exceptions, however. One exception is in the case of onions. In my part of the country it is universally agreed that as soon as better it continuously planted on the same bed. Personally I have had good crops for twenty-five consecutive years on the same small patch. I don't know the reason for this. But the fact is an established one.

I can't grow potatoes two years running on the same land without scab. Nor cabbages two years running without club-foot. But I have grown good sweet corn for over twenty years on the same land. And last year I had a fine crop of early beans from a plot which has been continually used as a bed-bed for more than fifty years, to my knowledge.

It won't do to be too dogmatic about farm or garden rules. They are almost all subject to modification or even nullification by special local and seasonal conditions. The treatment of a crop, meaning thereby fertilization, cultivation, etc., sometimes quite reverses any general rule.

THE FARMER.

**BOLTON**  
This program at the meeting of Bolton Grange, No. 4, last Friday evening was as follows: Home Economics Night—Roll call, Some New Article in My Home, Labor Saving Equipment, Miss Adella Leonard: How I Use My Head to Save My Head, paper by Mrs. F. D. Finley; Household Devices a Man Can Make, paper by Mrs. Frank R. Abbott; Is the Household Equipment the Work of the Farm, an address by Miss Annie M. Alvord; group singing of old-fashioned songs.

The Ladies' Aid society met with Mrs. Charles N. Leonard last Thursday afternoon.

Last Tuesday evening the members and friends of the Congregational Sunday school entered a supper and social at the church basement. The supper was given by the girls, their aide having left in a contest to secure the largest number of their members.

Elmer J. Finley of New York spent Sunday with his mother, Mrs. Jane Finley.

Miss Emma Brown has returned after a visit with her niece, Miss Alice Brown, of Fagotville.

Mr. and Mrs. Denton H. Loomis and son, Donald Loomis, of Westfield, Mass. were guests Sunday of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Loomis.

Mrs. Charles F. Sumner was in Hartford last week, where she was called by the illness of her father, John A. Conklin, whose condition was more comfortable when she left.

## WESTMINSTER

"Then opened His mind" was the pastor's text April 3 at morning worship. St. Luke 24: 45, was the text April 10. Schools opened Monday last week. Miss McDonald of North Society district did not return and Miss Lydia Lathrop, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Lathrop, is teaching there.

Three pupils of the North Society district adult night school will receive diplomas next week on completing the required state course in Americanization with Dwight Bassett, teacher.

With the universal unrest of workers, made so prominent in the papers of today, the topic for the home prayer circles for next week, Work and Wages of God's Kingdom, is of special interest. All citizens are to work, with tools at hand, and faithfulness rather than success to be the basis of reward. Scripture, Matt. 26: 15-30.

C. H. Koeh is enjoying a vacation with member of his family in their summer home here.

Mrs. S. Olsen and two little daughters have returned to their home, Longview, after a visit in East Hartford. April 3 Dr. John and Dr. Marie Boynton, their two sons, with two friends, the automobile guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Hollins, calling also at Roseville.

The engagement of Miss Josefa Pratt of Canterbury Plains and Springfield, Mass., to Fred La Chapelle is announced. Miss Marion Osgood of Providence is visiting in the Roseville home.

Miss Ruth Rosenzweig is recovering from an attack of appendicitis. Mrs. Louise Raymond returned from Danville last week to care for her sister.

Mrs. A. T. MacLeod has returned to her home after three months in St. Luke's hospital, New York. She has only praise for the treatment and care received by her at St. Luke's.

June 3, 1920, there was a wedding in the Westminster church, duly described in the Bulletin. Ten months later, almost to a day, Friday evening, April 8, the little bride slipped from this life to the eternal, leaving an infant son to her sorrowful relatives; the community was shocked at the death of Mrs. Clarence Joseph (Rita Dell Merrill). The funeral was held in her home at 400 E. of Good's Sunday afternoon and was attended by a large number and conducted by Rev. Mr. Cummins, rector of the Episcopal church at Plainfield. Mrs. Joseph had realized she was leaving this life and requested to have the Episcopal rector conduct the service of the church in which she had received baptism. The choir of the Westminster church revivified music, both at the house and at the funeral service at the grave at Canterbury Plains, where are buried others of her mother's family. The flowers were of great beauty. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Colony of New York, aunt and uncle of Mrs. Joseph, and her brother Richard were among those coming for the funeral. The infant is a sturdy little fellow.

**MYSTIC**  
Mrs. Ernest Rayner and son Edward have returned to Shrewsbury after a brief visit with Mrs. G. I. Mitchell.

Mrs. John G. Wheeler has returned from a visit in Boston.

E. C. George is driving a new coupe. Mrs. Elizabeth Wilcox of Norfolk, who has served as treasurer of Charity chapter, No. 81, O. E. S. of this place for the past 11 years, is soon to leave for Camden, Me., where she will make her home.

Mrs. Herbert S. Davis is a visitor in New York.

The whist held in St. Mark's parish house Thursday evening was an enjoyable affair.

The several camps of Camp Fire Girls are to hold a cake sale and tea.

Mrs. E. W. Gaskill and Mrs. John Lewis were in New London Tuesday.

Miss Marion Cooper is home from Gunning academy on account of ill health.

The cafeteria supper in the Congregational parish house Thursday evening was largely attended and proved a profitable affair.

**SOUTH GRISWOLD**  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Burton entertained Sunday Mr. and Mrs. John Steadman from Westfield, R. I.

Albert G. Greene and Irving O. Burdick attended the auction of Vine Palmer in Fitchburg April 7.

Several from this place attended the grange meeting at Pachaug Thursday evening.

Duty Inspector F. H. Paine of Pomfret, a guest at the Congregational, H. F. Butten of North Stonington called on local relatives Sunday.

## LEFFINGWELL

Nelson Champlin and Frank Clayton of Worcester, Mass., were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Reynolds a few days this week.

Deacon J. C. Leffingwell is steadily improving and is able to be up several hours each day.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Young and children, Jack and Mary, of Fisher's Island arrived Saturday to visit Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Bodat. Mr. Young returned to Fisher's Island Sunday.

Russell Taylor is able to be out, having been confined to his home by illness. Harry E. Bodat was called to Norfolk, Conn., Tuesday to attend the funeral of his father, Julius Bodat.

Joseph A. Elliott is adding a veranda to his house.

Sunday morning Rev. Joseph W. Carver will preach at 11 o'clock. R. Y. F. U. at 7:30, led by Mrs. Jesse E. Rogers. She will take for her subject How Can We Improve Our Recreation? 1 Co. 10: 23, 24, 21-33; 11: 1.

**ROCKVILLE**  
N. Henry Lampron of Westbury was called to his home one day last week. Mrs. Charles Bore has returned to her home here after caring for her son's wife, Mrs. Howard Bore, of Laurel Glen, who died last week.

Several from here attended the South County Central C. E. convention at the Hope Valley Baptist church Saturday evening.

Mrs. Taylor of Pennsylvania, who has been the guest of her son, William Taylor, and his wife of Moscow for a few weeks, met with a serious accident Sunday. She fell down stairs and cut a long gash on her forehead and was otherwise bruised.

Charles Hocking and George Edwards each recently purchased a new touring car.

**BOLTON NOTCH**  
Ethel Von Deck, from Staffordville, visited her sister, Mrs. Harold Lee, last week.

W. Howard visited in Plainville over Sunday, the guest of Mrs. Jessie Smith.

Loren Maine was in Providence Friday, a delegate to the Methodist conference.

Mrs. J. M. VonDeck from Staffordville was the guest that week of her daughter, Mrs. W. Stimmer.

Loren Maine was in Springfield Saturday.

Edward Brookman is driving a new automobile.

**WAUREGAN**  
At the girls' club rooms Monday, a very pleasant evening was spent. A kitchen shower was given Mrs. Flora Berthume, the district nurse, which was a complete surprise and much appreciated by Miss Berthume. A delicious supper was provided in the early evening.

A. B. Williams of Danvers, state automobile inspector was in the village Wednesday granting licenses to the persons owning new automobiles. J. Raymond, Fred Swan and Mrs. Gifford.

The quarantine has been lifted from the home of H. K. Loring, the family being in quarantine since last December.

Miss Mary Tracy of Central Village is staying with Mrs. William Tracy, who is confined to her home by illness.

Mrs. Fred Kies spent the week with relatives in Providence, R. I.

Miss Flora Berthume was a guest of friends in Providence over Sunday.

William Hill, Jr., had his dog killed.

## WILSONVILLE

Miss Fanny Jennings has sold her place to a Webster purchaser, who will take possession soon.

Miss Nellie Burke from Worcester was a week end guest of Mrs. Kate Haggerty. Harold Therox while fooling was tripped, fell and cracked his shinbone on a night last week. He is comfortable at present.

Mrs. George Allen of New London is visiting her son, August Foster and his family.

School was closed Wednesday at noon on account of a teachers' meeting.

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